

For Immediate Release  
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## **Major League Soccer Considering Possible New Team to Continue as San José Earthquakes**

Team name, colors, logo and records would stay in San José

**San José** -- Major League Soccer said today that it has great interest in establishing a new soccer team in San José to continue as the San José Earthquakes in a letter to City Manager Del Borgsdorf.

The league also announced today that while the owners of the Earthquakes will move their current team personnel to Houston, the league is reserving the Earthquake team colors, logos, and competition record for a possible return to San José.

“We continue to believe in San José as a market for Major League Soccer, and we count the San José fans as among the most passionate in the league,” stated MLS commissioner Donald P. Garber in a non-binding letter of intent to Borgsdorf.

“As long as the City of San José is continuing to pursue a ballot measure for a future stadium, MLS will work with the city to build support for an expansion team and reserve the team name, colors, logos, and competition records of the Earthquakes for San José. MLS also will assist the city in identifying investors that would own the new team,” wrote Garber.

Over the past month, city negotiators have been working with the San José Sharks in an effort to reach an agreement that would result in new ownership for the Earthquakes, a proposal for a new soccer stadium, and keep the current team in San José.

Although the city and Sharks did not come to an agreement, the city’s serious commitment to keep the team and invest in a possible new stadium drew the attention of MLS.

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"While we're disappointed that the team will not be playing in San José next year, we're gratified that we've been able to agree on a framework to bring the Earthquakes back to San José as early as 2007," Borgsdorf said.

"We look forward to City Council consideration of the proposal in January, followed by an opportunity for the voters to show their support for the team."

Depending on the schedule and outcome of potential San José ballot measures for a stadium and the confirmation of new investors, a new San José Earthquakes expansion team could be playing here as soon as the 2007.

"I'm very encouraged about this new opportunity to keep our excellent San José soccer tradition and look forward to reviewing this new proposal from Major League Soccer," said San José Mayor Ron Gonzales. "We still have a lot of hard work to do, I'm optimistic we can pull together to make this work with the strong interest from our community, fans, and Major League Soccer."

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